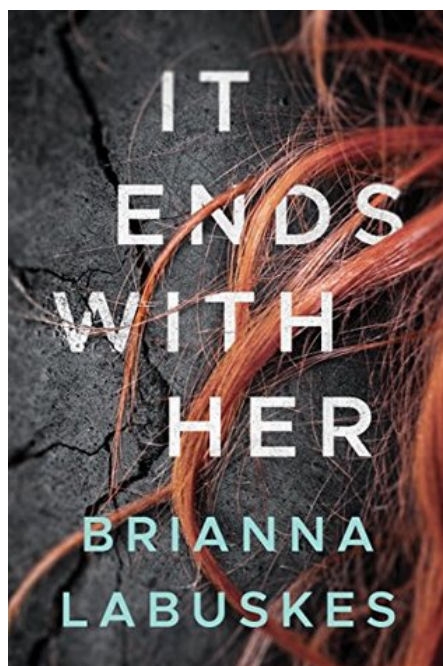




It Ends with Her

Brianna Labuskes

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It Ends with Her Brianna Labuskes
He started the game. She'll end it.

FBI special agent Clarke Sinclair doesn't give up easily. She's spent years tracking serial killer Simon Cross, forced to follow his twisted clues and photographs across the country. Clarke knows that Cross selects only redheaded women and that he doesn't target another victim until Clarke discovers the previous one.

He's never broken pattern...until now.

A girl has already gone missing in upstate New York when a second one is kidnapped—a blonde. The killer's MO has changed, sending Clarke back to the drawing board. The closer she gets to the truth, the deeper she's drawn into an inescapable trap made just for Clarke. Whatever Cross's ultimate game is, it ends with her.

It Ends with Her Details

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Author : Brianna Labuskes

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Genre : Mystery, Thriller, Fiction, Mystery Thriller

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From Reader Review It Ends with Her for online ebook

Debbie says

3.5 Stars!

So the beginning of this book was a bit touch and go for me. I'm okay with the slow revealing plot but I had trouble finding something to hold on to that would carry me forward in the story. The characters were not very appealing to me and at times annoying. Part of the plot was to figure out the connection between Sam and Clarke, and the lack of information and background made it more difficult to connect to them. Too much was kept from the reader which would have helped explain their interactions and seemingly unlikable traits. Once the pace picked up, about half way through, I was glad that I held on and quite enjoyed the game of cat and mouse.

Despite some of the issues I had with the characters, I felt writing was solid and deserving of a second look. I'll be checking out more from this author.

Liz Barnsley says

It Ends With Her is a really excellent crime/psychological thriller with a serial killer vibe, lifted by it's main protagonist Clarke, an FBI agent with a mission, whose divisive nature and intriguing background really make this one truly addictive.

The story itself is twisted and clever, a cat and mouse game that Clarke must win – by the time we meet her, it does feel like we are in the end game with horrific murderer Simon Cross – I loved this because there was no whodunnit to worry about, we know whodunnit for sure, it's never doubted – but can Clarke use her particular skills to actually catch him. Or is he going to get the better of them all..

The writing is wonderful, especially when it comes to depth of character, the mystery here is within them and their reasons and motivations. The yin and yang of Clarke and Simon and their horrific game, both hidden and out in the open, makes for some very edge of the seat reading. The author allows us to know the victims too – so you get very invested – there are subtle twists and turns that work very well and the ending is brilliant.

Overall I really thought this one was great. I very much look forward to more from this author.

Recommended.

Kevin Dowson says

Read as a Kindle First pick for April.

Okay, so I had a few issues with this book, particularly in the early stages. Those issues primarily centred around Clarke, the main protagonist. She was clearly a basket case with so many psychological issues I just wanted to shake her...very hard. But more importantly, wouldn't the FBI require psychological evaluations for their agents? I'm pretty sure they would, and equally sure an alcoholic, self-harming basket case with

major anger issues would never make the grade. Score one for lack of credibility.

Then we had the flashbacks. The endless, rambling, introverted flashbacks with served only to further highlight Clarke's lack of suitability as an FBI Special Agent. I found them more irritating than informative at the outset.

That said, when the plot started picking up momentum, I began to overlook the negatives and become engrossed in the chase to catch the killer. Not so much a procedural as a thriller, but the plot build was well crafted and the way the story gained pace and built suspense was very good. The actual writing, too, was of a high standard, and although I never grew to love the main characters, I did at least begin to care about them and their situation enough to enjoy the unfolding of the plot. The final twist was not entirely a shock, but it was made to feel plausible due to skilled writing, and the climax was suitably exciting and tragic.

To be honest this book was heading for a three star rating for most of the read, but it managed to just tip me over to a fourth star in the final reckoning due to plot construction and overall story-telling skill. Certainly an author I will be following with interest in the future.

Katy Askeland says

A page turning thriller

I chose this book as my Kindle First selection for April, as there was no other book I was remotely interested in. I'm glad I did.

While this may be Brianna Labuskes first novel, she is clearly an accomplished writer. The descriptions were thorough, sentence structure was good and it was well edited. I flew through the pages pretty quickly and it kept me up at night much later than I had wanted. To me, that is the mark of a great book.

So, why did I give it four stars instead of five? For me, the first quarter of the book dragged. I almost stopped reading at that point, but I've been trying to do a better job sticking with the books I've picked, as most of them improve the deeper you get involved in the story. That is certainly the case with *It Ends With Her*. My other gripe was the author's overuse of describing the characters' shoulders touching, particularly at the end of the novel. This is really a minor flaw, but was one that stood out to me, as I hate repetition.

All in all, this was a good book and I believe it is worth a read. I look forward to Ms. Labuskes next effort.

Alaina Meserole says

So good!

It Ends With Her was a really good mystery book. It kept me guessing every little thing. I honestly wanted to figure things out before I read it and I enjoyed every page.

This book follows FBI agent Clarke Sinclair. She is chasing a serial killer and the entire time you are wanting to know how these two are connected. THE ENTIRE TIME GUYS. Or it could just be me. The killer is always steps ahead of her and her team.. well, until the day he isn't. The killer has changed his MO and Clarke is determined to figure out why.

Now Clarke and Sam had a pretty interesting work relationship. I wasn't completely involved in it but some things that happened between the two felt sudden and made me sad - like the ending. Then there was Clarke and Simon - and if I'm being honest, I couldn't tell you who was more messed up in this book.

The ending was a little bit underwhelming and kind of rushed at the same time. I feel like Simon still kind of won in the end of it all. Overall, I did really enjoy the audio book and the mystery that this book gave me. I will definitely look into another book by this author.

Joey R. says

4.0 Stars— “It Ends With Her” was a Kindle First selection that I thought sounded interesting so I decided to give it a try. I never read Brianna Labuskes before, and I admit to being impressed with her ability to build suspense and to include several plot twists throughout the book. The book is told from the perspective of three different characters: Clarke— the FBI agent whose life mission is to find the serial killer, Simon, before he kills again. Bess— one of Simon’s currently kidnapped victims and Adelaide— Simon’s foster sister who fills in the details about Simon from his childhood. Books in which the killer taunts the authorities by sending them on scavenger hunts are usually interesting to read, and this one is no exception. The book is interesting from the start and all three narrators do a great job of painting the portrait of Simon as the monster serial killer capable of committing the horrific murders. I might have scored the book even higher, but the author makes the huge mistake of lying about the death of one of the characters. Don’t lie in an effort to make the book more suspenseful — it ruins the reader’s enjoyment of trying to figure out the mystery. The fact I still rated it 4 stars tells you how good the book was despite “the lie”.

Marina says

There are three POVs

- 1) Clarke – the main (and not very likeable character) – whose chapters were long and rambling.
- 2) Adelaide – a child.
- 3) Bess – a victim. (These chapters were much more exciting.)

I found the ‘serial killer v FBI / cat and mouse’ plot over-complicated, the relationships unlikely and the whole set up quite improbable.

Beatrix says

If there was anything in life that was predictable, it was the rage men felt when women mocked them.

I wanted to start with that quote, I feel it's so powerful, it really got me thinking. The book, among other thing, deals with the topic of domestic abuse. However, at its core, *It Ends with Her* is about an FBI agent Clarke trying to catch a serial killer who is somewhat obsessed with her. I loved the title, btw, it totally fits.

I'll admit that the beginning was a bit tricky for me. It starts *in medias res*; they've been trying to catch Simon

Cross (the killer) for years now, and we're thrown into the middle of a new case. It took me a while to grasp the relations between characters, I wanted their backstories - why are they the way they are?

But in the second half the story picked up, or rather, I became invested, I wanted them to catch him, I wanted that final confrontation. And- what made the book way better in my opinion was the plot twist towards the end! I did not see that coming, and suddenly everything made sense. It definitely crystallized the whole structure of the novel for me.

Joy warred with fear warred with nostalgia warred with horror. And underneath it all - pulsing and unwanted and confusing - was something that still felt like love.

I also liked the father/daughter relationship between Sam and Clarke. Sam was her fellow FBI agent, mentor of sorts, a father figure and best friend.

I should also emphasize that this was not particularly dark nor explicit in descriptions. Now, that may be a good or a bad thing, depending on what you're looking for. When I'm reading about serial killers, I don't mind a bit of gore, it adds credibility, how am I supposed to take this villain seriously if he doesn't do anything bad, right?

In conclusion, this wasn't anything mind-blowing, but it was entertaining enough.

Final rating: Strong 3.5 stars

Jennifer Lanak says

FBI agent Clarke Sinclair is chasing a serial killer. She and her partner, Sam, are being led around the country on a scavenger hunt of sorts, following cryptic clues the killer leaves for them. It seems they are never quite in time to save the victim, but the latest string of clues is different - he's changed the game and it is personal to Clarke. Clarke must battle her own internal demons and past if she wants to win.

This book was excellent. I didn't particularly like any of the characters, but their story was compelling. The mystery and the revealing of the clues and connections was well done. Considering we knew who the killer was the entire time, I was surprised at how deeply invested I was in finding out how it all fit together. 4.5 stars.

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

At first I was up and down with this book, but then I got into it!

Clarke Sinclair is an FBI Agent with her friend Sam. They have been looking for the serial killer, Simon Cross for some years now.

Now he's back and sending things to Clarke. Will she be able to capture him this time before he kills another girl or girls?

This book has two POV's. One is in the present with Clarke. The second POV is of Simon and his past. It shows how he turned out the way he is; although I think it goes deeper than his foster family. He's a nutter.

I guess I'm just too tired because I didn't see that ending coming when I should have with a ten foot pole, but I digress. Either way, I enjoyed the book!

Happy Reading!

Mel ♥

MY BLOG: Melissa Martin's Reading List

AMAZON: REVIEW

? percy ✿ says

this was mega predictable which is why i can't give it more than three stars, but the writing and characterisation were both very good. good characterisation and psychological insights can be pretty rare in thrillers, so that was a pleasant surprise. ultimately, though, i can't fully enjoy a book if i guess pretty much everything that's going on.

Jenny says

"It Ends with Her" is about two people and their obsession with each other. FBI Special Agent Clarke Sinclair was involved in chasing serial killer Simon Cross with the help of her partner FBI Special Agent Sam Gallagher. However, finding Simon Cross was not as easy as Clarke and Sam thought after he changed his pattern by taking two girls together. The readers of It Ends With Her will continue to follow the twists and turns of FBI Special Agent Clarke Sinclair and FBI Special Agent Sam Gallagher investigation.

"It Ends With Her" is the first book I have read of Brianna Labuskes, and I did enjoy reading this book. I like the way Brianna Labuskes combine two plots throughout It Ends With Her. I did not see the ending of It Ends With Her it differently come out of left field for me. Brianna Labuskes did a great job in portraying her characters. "It Ends With Her" is well written by Brianna Labuskes. Brianna Labuskes engaged me with her characters and the plot from the beginning.

The readers of It Ends With Her will learn about FBI investigations procedures and the way they interact with local law enforcement. Also, It Ends With Her highlights the problems and consequences of sexual abuse and mental illness.

I recommend this book.

Jody McGrath says

I really enjoyed this psychological thriller. Most of the twists and turns were not giant "aha" moments. They were easy to see coming, but that didn't distract from the great plot and honest gritty characters. I read this

entire book in one sitting, so I don't agree that it was slow at all. I was really impressed with the pacing. Having it switch from certain POVs and certain times, really fueled the story instead of confusing it which so many other books do. I highly recommend this one!

Suze says

IT ENDS WITH HER

I usually love thrillers, this book has a lot of action-a scavenger hunt, and a couple of very determined FBI agents. The plot was good, my problem with the book was the characters. Both Sam and Clarke seemed incomplete, and not very likeable. When I love a book, it is because of the characters- this book not so much.

Bev Youngberg says

Highly enjoyable if you like twists!

I went into this book hesitantly. At first I thought it was another “bad a\$\$ female agent” novel, but once you dive into each character, you find each has their own flaws that compliment one another perfectly. A truly great novel highlighting the impact of child abuse, the psyche of the abused, and how it gnaws at them for the rest of their lives. I recommend giving this novel a chance if you want a thriller, mystery and a good puzzle.
